

Zechariah 8:16-23 + 9:10

Zechariah 8:16 - "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:"

This is a reference to **Deuteronomy 1:16** - "And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him." (Also repeated in the previous chapter Zechariah 7:9-10)

Zechariah 8:17 - "And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD."

Transformation of Fasts into Feasts

Zechariah 8:18-19 - "And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace."

The fasts of the fourth and fifth months are the Fast of Tammuz when the walls of Jerusalem were breached, and the Fast of Ab, when the city and Temple were finally destroyed.

The fast of the seventh month is probably not Yom Kippur because according to the Sages, each of these fasts deal with the destruction of Jerusalem.

The Fast of Gedaliah fell during the 10 Days of Awe in the seventh month Tishri. According to Maimonides: "Gedaliah son of Ahikam was killed and the last remaining ember of Israel was extinguished, sealing their fate that they be exiled." He had been placed as governor by Nebuchadnezzar, and encouraged some of the Jews who fled to join him in Israel and live in submission to Babylon. But Nethaniah, the son of Elishama - who was of the royal family - had him murdered along with those who had joined him and the Babylonian contingent who were with him. The remaining Jews who were in hiding fled to Egypt. (**2 Kings 25:22-25**)

The fast of the tenth month marked the day Nebuchadnezzar began the siege of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 24:1-2 - "In the ninth year, on the tenth day of the tenth month, the word of the Lord came to me: O mortal, record this date, this exact day; for this very day the king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem."

The Jews chose these days to fast during the exile, and the tradition persisted.

Maimonides (Hilchot Taaniot, c. 5. sect. 19.) commenting on the Zechariah passage, says, that all these fasts shall cease in the times of the Messiah, with all others, which

will be times of joy and gladness. So he would include Yom Kippur in the list.

Zechariah 8:20-22 - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD."

This was also seen as to be fulfilled in the Days of Messiah. By the time of Jesus, many Romans admired the Jews for their laws, and many became proselytes and "God fearers." Later the preaching of the Gospel by the apostles brought many from numerous cities across the Roman Empire to join the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 8:23 - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."

Gentiles will grab onto the hem of his garment, desiring the righteousness and salvation it represents. Jesus and his apostles were all Jews, and became founders of a new Israel expanded to welcome all peoples.

"skirt" = *kanaph* - the "wings" of his garment with which He covers us as a sign of protection, as Boaz did to Ruth as a sign of betrothal.

Zechariah 9:10 - "And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth."

Ephraim + Jerusalem = 12 tribes of Israel. War will cease for Israel.

Targum: "I will break the strength of those that make war, the armies of the people"

The rabbis saw this as a prophecy of the times of Messiah.